

**SHERRI ROTHMAN**  
60 West 66<sup>th</sup> Street Apt. #11D  
New York, New York 10023  
(212) 721-1787

9912 '99 APR 22 AIG 109

April 19, 1999

Dockets Management Branch, FDA  
Dept. of Health & Human Services  
12420 Parklawn Drive - Room 1-23  
Rockville, MD 20857

To Whom it May Concern,

Understandably, I was horrified when I read the enclosed material. The forced molting of hens is so inhumane it's barbaric. The fact that this torture is legal and commonplace within the U.S. egg industry is abominable. It is beyond me how the FDA has knowingly allowed this take place. Please do the moral and humane thing and grant the petition filed under docket #98P-0203/CP that would eliminate this practice and make it illegal. To intentionally starve entire flocks of hens to produce additional eggs is intolerable cruelty.

I would appreciate an explanation and follow up as to how a government agency has been aware of such practices and stood idly by. Isn't that the purpose of a watchdog organization such as the FDA to begin with? I look forward to your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Sherri Rothman

cc. UPC

98P-0203

C 1128

# Starving Your Dog or Cat Is Against the Law . . .

9 2 1 1 ' 99 APR 22 AIO :09

If the average person decided to withhold food from their dog or cat for days or weeks, that person would probably be charged with cruelty to animals and the media would take the story and run with it. Yet, each year the egg industry intentionally deprives millions of hens of all food for up to 14 days. But the cameras aren't rolling and no one is going to jail.

The U.S. egg industry force molts – intentionally starves – entire flocks to manipulate their metabolism, forcing exhausted hens to produce a few hundred more eggs before going to slaughter.



During the forced molt, hungry hens peck desperately at empty metal food trays. They are driven to pluck and eat each others' feathers to obtain nutrients. Denuded of feathers and deranged by fear, they lose up to 35 percent of their body weight. Countless hens die from the stress.

Forced molting is so stressful it increases bone breakage and impairs the hens' immune system, predisposing the birds and their eggs to Salmonella infection. USDA immunol-

ogist Peter Holt reports, "Molting, in combination with an SE (Salmonella enteritidis) infection, created an actual disease state in the alimentary tract of affected hens."

**Please fill in and mail the coupon below to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).**

Dear FDA,

Forced molting of hens used in egg production is cruel to the birds and increases the spread of Salmonella enteritidis infection. Please grant the petition, filed under docket #98P-0203/CP, that would eliminate this practice.

Signed Ashley Lynn Rothman

Address 60 W. 66th St #11D

City, State, Zip NY, NY 10023

Send to: Dockets Management Branch, Food & Drug Administration, Dept. of Health & Human Services, 12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857.

Sherri Lynn Rothman  
60 West 66th Street #11D  
New York, New York 10023



Dockets Management Branch, FDA  
Dept. of Health & Human Services  
12420 Parklawn Drive - Room 1-23  
Rockville, MD 20857

